

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-09 EPA-01 INT-05 AID-05 CEQ-01
CIAE-00 SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 ICA-11 SS-15
SP-02 DOE-15 CEA-01 H-01 OMB-01 STR-07 TRSE-00
ACDA-12 /146 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CAN:WAGARLAND:DB
APPROVED BY EUR/CAN:JHROUSE, JR.
OES - AWICKHAM (PHONE)
OES - GLKINTER (PHONE)
EPA - ASCHIFFERDECKER (PHONE)
INTERIOR - BSTURGILL (PHONE)
-----003655 282109Z /46
P 282026Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, CA

SUBJECT: BEAUFORT SEA DRILLING: WATER FLOW AT KAGLULIK WELL

REF: OTTAWA 3722

1. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED SEEK APPOINTMENT AT APPROPRIATELY
HIGH LEVEL IN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DEPARTMENT HAS IN MIND
JOHN SHARPE, USA DIVISION) TO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS WITH
RESPECT TO BLOW-OUT OF KAGLULIK WELL:

A) USG APPRECIATES PROMPT NOTIFICATION BY GOC OF WATER FLOW
AT KAGLULIK WELL AND ACTION TAKEN BY GOC TO INVESTIGATE
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INCIDENT AND CLOSE OFF FLOW. WE WOULD LIKE TO BE KEPT
CLOSELY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

B) USG NONETHELESS DISTURBED THAT BLOW-OUT OCCURRED IN VIEW
OF OUR CONCERN, SHARED BY GOC, THAT STRICT CONTROLS BE
APPLIED TO BEAUFORT SEA DRILLING TO PREVENT SUCH OCCURREN-
CES.

C) IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT ENVIRONMENT REGIME FOR
BEAUFORT SEA DRILLING INCLUDES SPECIAL WATCH FOR EARLY

WARNING OF ICE CONDITIONS THAT COULD AFFECT DRILLING, AS
WELL AS APPLICATION OF METHODS TO AVOID ENVIRONMENTAL
DAMAGE SHOULD AN INCIDENT OCCUR. KAGLULIK INCIDENT CASTS
DOUBT ON EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE MEASURES, PARTICULARLY IN
VIEW OF EXTENDED DRILLING SEASON PERMITTED FOR 1978 ACTIVI-
TIES.

D) WE HOPE THAT GOC WILL REVIEW EFFECTIVENESS OF CONTROLS
APPLIED TO CANMAR DRILLING IN LIGHT OF THE KAGLULIK BLOW-
OUT, WITH THE OBJECT OF PREVENTING FUTURE OCCURRENCES. IN
OUR VIEW, EXTENSION OF DRILLING SEASON SHOULD
ALSO BE REEXAMINED IF ICE WATCH UNABLE GIVE SUFFICIENT
EARLY WARNING OF DANGEROUS CONDITIONS, PARTICULARLY TOWARD
END OF SEASON WHEN ICE CONDITIONS NOTORIOUSLY UNPREDICTA-
BLE.

E) USG WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF RESULTS OF DINA
INVESTIGATION AS WELL AS OUTCOME OF ANY GOC REVIEW OF
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS AND EXTENSION OF DRILLING SEASON.

2. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE PROMPT REPORT OF EXTAFF
REACTION TO EMBASSY APPROACH. EUR/CAN HAS INFORMED CANADIAN
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EMBASSY (REJHON) OF SUBSTANCE OF US CONCERNS. VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRILLING, WATER, SEA WATER
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE191144
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WAGARLAND:DB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780310-0937
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978078/aaaaagqf.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ee7e6078-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 OTTAWA 3722
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2068811
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BEAUFORT SEA DRILLING: WATER FLOW AT KAGLULIK WELL
TAGS: SENV, CA
To: OTTAWA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ee7e6078-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014